United Nations A/69/87-E/2014/80

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 May 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Item 107 of the preliminary list*
International drug control

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2014
Item 17 (d) of the provisional agenda**
Social and human rights questions: narcotic drugs

Outcome of the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly, pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/197, the report of the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the outcome of the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem.

* A/69/50.
** E/2014/100.

V.14-02813 (E) 260514 270514

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Report of the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the outcome of the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

Introduction

1. In the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182, it was decided that the Commission at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

2. At its reconvened fifty-third session, in 2010, the Commission adopted the annual report questionnaire for Member States to periodically report to the Commission on their efforts to fully implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

3. At its fifty-fifth session, in 2012, the Commission considered the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/CN.7/2012/14 and Corr.1), which contained information based on the first round of responses provided by Member States to parts I and II of the annual report questionnaire. At its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, the Commission considered the second report of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action (E/CN.7/2014/7), which contained information based on the second round of responses provided by Member States to parts I and II of the annual report questionnaire.

4. At its fifty-sixth session, in 2013, the Commission decided, in its resolution 56/12, that the high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem should be held during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, in 2014, for a period of two days, in addition to the five days usually scheduled for the regular sessions of the Commission in the first half of the year. It also decided that the high-level review should consist of a general debate on "Progress achieved and challenges in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem" and round-table discussions on the three pillars of the Plan of Action. Also in that resolution, the Commission resolved that a brief joint ministerial statement should be issued at the conclusion of the

high-level review, identifying, on the basis of the review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, achievements, challenges and priorities for further action, in the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments, and that the outcome of the high-level review should be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration, in view of, inter alia, the special session of the Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

5. Intersessional meetings of the Commission and informal negotiations were held during the third quarter of 2013 and the first quarter of 2014 to draft the Joint Ministerial Statement to be adopted by Member States at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, taking into account, inter alia, the reports of the Executive Director on action taken by Member States to implement the Political Declaration and Plan of Action mentioned in paragraph 3 above; the outcome of the thematic round-table discussions of the Commission at its fifty-third through fifty-sixth sessions; relevant studies and reports of UNODC, the International Narcotics Control Board, the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and other relevant United Nations agencies; and other information related to the world drug problem from relevant international and regional organizations, civil society and the private sector.

6. The high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was held on 13 and 14 March 2014. A total of 129 States participated in the segment.

7. During the high-level segment, Member States conducted a general debate on progress achieved and challenges in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. At the same time, round-table discussions were held on the three pillars of the Plan of Action: (a) demand reduction; (b) supply reduction; and (c) international cooperation.

8. At the fourth meeting of the session, on 14 March 2014, the ministers and government representatives participating in the high-level segment adopted the Joint Ministerial Statement (see annex I).

9. The Chairs of the three round-table discussions presented a summary of the outcome of their respective discussions (see annex II).

10. More detailed information on the high-level segment, including the list of persons who addressed the general debate and the statements made following the adoption of the Joint Ministerial Statement, can be found in the report on the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2014/28).

Annex I

Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

We, the Ministers and government representatives participating in the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna on 13 and 14 March 2014, gathering to undertake a midterm review of progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[1] adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2009, and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009,

1. *Are fully aware* that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that should be addressed in a multilateral setting through effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing, balanced and comprehensive approach to supply and demand reduction strategies, and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to ensuring that all aspects of demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation are addressed in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[2] and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States;

2. *Underscore* that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[3] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971,[4] the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[5] and other relevant international instruments constitute the cornerstone of the international drug control system, welcome the efforts made by States parties to comply with the provisions and ensure the effective implementation of those conventions, and urge all Member States that have not yet done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to those instruments;

3. *Reaffirm* our commitment to achieving the targets and goals, and implementing the provisions, set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[2] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[4] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem;[1]

4. *Reaffirm* the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[6] the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[7] the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[8] the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[9] the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, adopted during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs,[10] and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;[11]

5. *Have undertaken* a high-level midterm review[12] of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action to determine the progress achieved and challenges faced in its implementation and recommit to effectively addressing the world drug problem;

6. *Recognize* that, 15 years after the commitments made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly to address the world drug problem, notwithstanding the ever-increasing efforts and progress made by States, relevant international organizations and civil society, the drug problem continues to pose a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all humanity, in particular youth, our most precious asset;

7. *Also recognize* that the world drug problem undermines sustainable development, political stability and democratic institutions, including efforts to eradicate poverty, and threatens national security and the rule of law, and that drug trafficking and abuse pose a major threat to the health, dignity and hopes of millions of people and their families and lead to the loss of human lives;

8. *Reaffirm* our determination to tackle the world drug problem and to actively promote a society free of drug abuse in order to ensure that all people can live in health, dignity and peace, with security and prosperity;

9. *Express deep concern* at the high price paid by society and by individuals and their families in countering the world drug problem, and pay special tribute to the law enforcement and judicial personnel who have sacrificed their lives and to the health-care and civil society personnel who have dedicated themselves to addressing this phenomenon;

10. *Recognize* that many challenges of the world drug problem have persisted and new ones have emerged in some parts of the world, and underscore the

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[6] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.
[7] General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex.
[8] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.
[9] General Assembly resolution 54/132, annex.
[10] A/58/124, sect. II.A.
[11] General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.
[12] As defined in the Political Declaration of 2009 and reconfirmed in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/12.

need to take these new trends into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

11. *Take note* of the ongoing discussions in some regions on how to address the world drug problem, in the light of the current situation and policies, and emphasize the importance of a broad, transparent, inclusive and scientific evidence-based discussion among Member States, with inputs from other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in multilateral settings, on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, in order to further implement the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

12. *Also take note* of the ongoing process to elaborate the post-2015 development agenda of the United Nations, bearing in mind relevant aspects of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, together with efforts of Member States in the implementation of the objectives and goals thereof;

13. *Reaffirm* the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters, also reaffirm our support and appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations, in particular those of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as the leading entity in the United Nations system for countering the world drug problem, and further reaffirm the treaty-mandated roles of the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization;

14. *Call for* continued cooperation between Member States, the International Narcotics Control Board and the World Health Organization to ensure the adequate availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control, including opiates, for medical and scientific purposes, while concurrently preventing their diversion into illicit channels, pursuant to the international drug control conventions, and to provide recommendations on the scheduling of substances;

15. *Welcome* the important role played by civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, note with appreciation their important contribution to the review process, and note that representatives of affected populations and civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation and implementation of drug demand and supply reduction policy;

16. *Also welcome* the decision of the General Assembly[13] to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem, following the present high-level review of the progress made in the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and look forward to the proposals to be submitted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the United Nations organ with the prime responsibility for drug control matters, issuing from its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions;

[13] General Assembly resolution 67/193.

General achievements

17. *Note* that, based on the information available and reported by Member States, the global illicit supply and demand of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances under international control have remained largely stable during the past five years, while trends in drug supply and demand have been unequal across regions and countries and according to drug type,[14] and acknowledge that appropriate policies and measures aimed at more efficient use of limited resources are necessary to effectively address the world drug problem;

18. *Also note* that several Member States in different parts of the world have achieved tangible and measurable progress in implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the scientific community;

19. *Acknowledge* that Member States have achieved tangible progress in countering the world drug problem with regard to improved understanding of the problem, the elaboration and implementation of national strategies to tackle the problem in an increasing number of countries, capacity-building initiatives for national competent authorities, the review and updating of legal frameworks, the creation and strengthening of capacities within law enforcement and health institutions, and improved mechanisms for international cooperation;

20. *Take note* of the resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-sixth session,[15] the *World Drug Report 2013*[16] of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board,[17] and call upon Member States to strengthen international and regional cooperation and coordination to counter the threat to the international community caused by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, especially those in the opium group, as well as other aspects of the world drug problem, and to continue to take concerted measures within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative[18] and other relevant regional and international initiatives and mechanisms, such as the Heart of Asia initiative, in order to strengthen cross-border cooperation and information exchange with a view to countering drug trafficking with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

21. *Welcome* the ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in drugs, addressing supply, demand and the diversion of precursor chemicals, undertaken by regional organizations and transregional initiatives such as the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Triangular Initiative, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism and other relevant subregional and regional organizations and initiatives, including the counter-narcotics strategy of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization for the period 2011-2016, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the

[14] See *World Drug Report 2013* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XI.6).

[15] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 8* (E/2013/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[16] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XI.6.

[17] E/INCB/2012/1.

[18] See S/2003/641, annex.

Organization of American States, the European pact to combat international drug trafficking, the European pact against synthetic drugs, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Senior Officials on Drug Matters workplan to combat illicit drug production, trafficking and use (2009-2015) with the aim of achieving a drug-free South-East Asia by 2015 and the South American Council on the World Drug Problem of the Union of South American Nations, as well as the recent intensification of partnering between the States members of the Caribbean Community, the Dominican Republic and the United States of America within the framework of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, which aims, inter alia, to substantially reduce illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, the Accra declaration,[19] adopted at the Twenty-second Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Accra from 25 to 29 June 2012, and the thirtieth International Drug Enforcement Conference, held in Moscow from 5 to 7 June 2013;

General challenges and priorities for action

22. *Note with concern*, while acknowledging the progress made by Member States, that some continuing and emerging challenges of the world drug problem may hinder our common efforts to achieve the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, and call upon all Member States and relevant stakeholders to further strengthen their practical implementation;

23. *Underscore* that both the persistent and the new challenges in countering the world drug problem related to drug demand and supply reduction and to countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation remain a common and shared responsibility and should continue to be addressed in a comprehensive, integrated and balanced manner, in full conformity with the three international drug control conventions and fully consistent with applicable international human rights obligations, on both the drug demand and supply reduction sides, and urge Member States and all relevant stakeholders to further consolidate their efforts in order to achieve the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action by addressing those challenges, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, as well as all human rights, fundamental freedoms and the inherent dignity of all individuals;

24. *Also underscore* the need to respond to shifting trafficking routes and new drug trafficking trends, including Internet-based e-commerce and mail-order services;

25. *Note* the importance of an integrated approach in drug policies, including by strengthening the partnerships between public health, justice and law enforcement sectors and facilitating inter-agency cooperation and communication, where appropriate;

26. *Express* the need for a better understanding of the social and economic drivers of the world drug problem;

27. *Note* the emerging challenge of polydrug abuse in some regions;

[19] Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/2, annex.

28. *Are concerned* that amphetamine-type stimulants continue to pose a serious and evolving challenge to international drug control efforts;

29. *Encourage* Member States, in cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant stakeholders, to endeavour to ensure that measures taken at the national and local levels in response to economic and financial constraints do not disproportionately impact the implementation of comprehensive and balanced drug demand and supply reduction policies, including adequate provisions of related health measures, in accordance with national legislation, as well as sufficient efforts for supply reduction;

30. *Highlight* the need to continue providing technical assistance to Member States so as to enhance capacity in countering the world drug problem, upon their request; to establish and further improve national drug control strategies and measures; to promote more targeted capacity-building initiatives based on scientific evidence for competent national authorities; to review and update legal frameworks and law enforcement institutions, taking into account applicable international human rights obligations; to improve existing mechanisms for international cooperation; and to foster the development of national monitoring systems and statistics to elaborate proper data collection and analysis that allow for the identification of current trends, institutional capacities and the effects of drug control measures;

31. *Call on* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[20] and, as appropriate, the Protocols thereto[21] and States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption[22] to make more effective use of the relevant provisions for international cooperation contained in those conventions, in order to counter some aspects of the world drug problem;

32. *Welcome* the measures taken so far and stress the need to continue to improve the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order for the Office to fulfil its mandates effectively, efficiently and with the appropriate resources;

33. *Identify* the following achievements, challenges and priorities for further action in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action:

A. Demand reduction and related measures

Achievements

1. *Recognize* that drug addiction is a health problem and that many Member States have adopted national drug strategies with drug demand reduction components that include primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration measures, as well as measures aimed at minimizing the public health and social consequences of drug abuse, in accordance with national legislation and the three international drug control conventions, and aimed at monitoring and researching the drug

[20] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[21] Ibid., vols. 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.
[22] Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

situation, and encourage Member States that have not yet done so to consider the development, adoption and effective implementation of such strategies, in accordance with national policies and legislation, as well as their timely evaluation, review and strengthening, as appropriate;

2. *Note* that some Member States, within their national drug control strategies, are expanding access to prevention, treatment, diagnosis, care and support services relating to HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases for people who inject drugs, and also note that those States that have implemented the interventions outlined in the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide*[23] and, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic legal systems and national legislation, have remarkably reduced the number of HIV infections, with some countries approaching the elimination of injecting drug use-related transmission of HIV;

3. *Also note* that various Member States, within their legal frameworks and in accordance with the three international drug control conventions, as well as other relevant international laws, have implemented comprehensive drug demand reduction programmes for offenders, particularly children, and have also provided, within their national strategies, a broad range of alternatives to conviction and punishment in appropriate drug-related cases of a minor nature or in cases in which the person who abuses drugs has committed an offence as outlined in the relevant provisions of the international drug control conventions;

4. *Take note* of the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with Member States, and encourage the further development of the International Standards on the basis of scientific evidence, as well as their effective implementation;

5. *Welcome* efforts made by several Member States to develop combined public education and law enforcement initiatives to address the rise of drug abuse;

Challenges and priorities for action

6. *Consider* as main challenges in addressing the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances the need to increase focus on, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and the fundamental principles of domestic legal systems and national legislation of Member States, drug-related health effects, taking into account the specific challenges faced by vulnerable groups, such as children, adolescents, vulnerable youth, women, including pregnant women, people with medical and psychiatric co-morbidities, ethnic minorities and socially marginalized individuals, and to further promote and strengthen effective national drug control strategies based on scientific evidence, with components for drug demand reduction that include primary prevention, early intervention, treatment, care, rehabilitation,

[23] *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users: 2012 Revision* (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2012).

recovery and social reintegration, as well as measures aimed at minimizing the public health and social consequences of drug abuse;

7. *Highlight* the need for Member States to formulate and implement, where appropriate, a broad system of primary prevention and early intervention based on scientific evidence, such as the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and other measures, including educational activities and interactive campaigns;

8. *Reaffirm* the need to further strengthen public health systems, particularly in the areas of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, as part of a comprehensive and balanced approach to demand reduction based on scientific evidence;

9. *Highlight* the need to develop or continue strengthening, within a comprehensive national drug control strategy, national monitoring mechanisms that collect and analyse data on current trends in illicit demand for drugs, including on possible gaps in the provision of appropriate public health, educational and social services, and call upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant United Nations entities and international organizations to support, upon request, those efforts, in cooperation with Member States;

10. *Invite* Member States to further undertake measures required to ensure access for all to comprehensive drug demand reduction measures, taking into account the specific needs of women and children and the circumstances they face with regard to drug problems, so that they benefit equally and without discrimination from those measures, and encourage the continuation of international cooperation in that regard;

11. *Reiterate* our commitment to reducing the transmission of HIV among injecting drug users by 50 per cent by 2015, in line with the agreed international targets of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[24] and note that available evidence indicates that further efforts are required to achieve the Declaration's global target;

12. *Encourage* Member States, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and the fundamental principles of their domestic legal systems and national legislation, to consider providing, as appropriate, the measures aimed at minimizing the negative public health and social impacts of drug abuse that are outlined in the *WHO, UNODC, UNAIDS Technical Guide*, and also encourage, where appropriate, bilateral, regional and international cooperation to address that challenge;

13. *Underscore* the need to deepen knowledge of the challenges posed by new psychoactive substances, and highlight the need to develop comprehensive and integrated approaches to the detection, analysis and identification of new psychoactive substances, trends and possible negative health and other impacts of those substances, in close cooperation with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations Office on Drugs and

[24] General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations and global and regional cooperation frameworks;

14. *Note with concern* that the availability of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, particularly for the relief of pain and for palliative care, remains low to non-existent in many countries of the world, and highlight the need for Member States, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization, as appropriate, to address that situation by promoting measures to ensure their availability and accessibility for medical and scientific purposes, in accordance with national legislation, while simultaneously preventing their diversion, abuse and trafficking, in order to realize the aims of the three international drug control conventions;

B. Supply reduction and related measures

Achievements

15. *Note with appreciation* the progress made with respect to measures related to the illicit production and supply of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, while ensuring their availability exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, and underscore that the world drug problem continues to be a major problem in many parts of the world and hinders socioeconomic development and the well-being of people;

16. *Welcome* the efforts made by various Member States to significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and the manufacture of psychotropic substances, within the framework of sustainable crop control measures, including eradication, law enforcement measures and development strategies such as alternative development, including preventive alternative development programmes, where they have been applied, as well as other successful national strategies, in accordance with the international drug control conventions;

17. *Recognize* the efforts of Member States in developing law enforcement techniques in their drug control efforts through, inter alia, the exchange of information and best practices, as well as regional and international coordination, capacity-building and, in some cases, cross-border operations and maritime control;

18. *Also recognize* the efforts made by interested Member States in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to adjust their monitoring systems by taking into account country-specific conditions, in order to assess progress in preventing, eliminating or reducing significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and to ensure the comparability of statistics, in order to allow for better assessment of progress towards achieving the targets set in the plan of action of the Political

Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem;

19. *Welcome* the adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, and encourage interested Member States, international organizations, international financial institutions, donors and other relevant stakeholders to be guided by those guiding principles when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, including, where appropriate, preventive alternative development;

20. *Recognize* the progress made in the development of a consolidated international response to the increasing availability of new psychoactive substances that may pose risks to public health and safety, including the development of a global reference point, the early warning advisory and cooperation with Member States and relevant regional organizations in the identification and reporting of such substances, in order to increase data collection, improve our collective understanding and find effective policy responses, and acknowledge the continuing efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to enhance the capacity of Member States and improve the application of the international scheduling process, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board;

21. *Acknowledge* the significant progress achieved by Member States in cooperation with relevant international organizations and United Nations bodies, in particular the International Narcotics Control Board, in the sphere of precursors control, welcome those joint efforts, supported by utilization of Pre-Export Notification Online, which has significantly increased the effectiveness of those joint efforts in reducing the diversion of precursors controlled under the 1988 Convention from international trade channels, and call on Member States that have not yet done so to consider making full use of Pre-Export Notification Online;

Challenges and priorities for action

22. *Acknowledge* that law enforcement measures alone cannot address those challenges, and recognize the importance of promoting a comprehensive and balanced approach for a successful response;

23. *Also acknowledge* the need to scientifically evaluate, where appropriate, drug supply reduction measures, in order to direct government resources to initiatives that have proved to be successful in tackling the causes of the world drug problem;

24. *Stress* the urgent need to respond to the serious challenges posed by the increasing links between drug trafficking, corruption and other forms of organized crime, including trafficking in persons, trafficking in firearms, cybercrime and, in some cases, terrorism and money-laundering, including money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism, and to the significant challenges faced by law enforcement and judicial authorities in responding to the ever-changing means used by transnational criminal organizations to avoid detection and prosecution;

25. *Recognize* that the effective application of and respect for the rule of law contributes to combating the world drug problem and facilitates efforts to hold drug traffickers and perpetrators of related crimes accountable for their actions;

26. *Reiterate* the need to strengthen international cooperation to support sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, where appropriate, as an essential part of successful crop control strategies, in order to increase the positive outcome of such programmes, especially in areas affected by or at risk of illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

27. *Also reiterate* the need to develop sustainable crop control strategies consistent with domestic legal frameworks, giving appropriate attention to alternative development as an essential part of those strategies, in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, with a view to developing products, through alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, identified on the basis of market demand and value-added production chains, including those referred to in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 55/8 of 16 March 2012 and resolution 56/15 of 15 March 2013, entitled "Follow-up to the Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem with respect to the development of strategies on voluntary marketing tools for products stemming from alternative development, including preventive alternative development";

28. *Underscore* the need to identify and better understand the new and increasing challenge of potentially dangerous new psychoactive substances that are emerging at a rapid rate, taking into account that information and communication technologies are a facilitator of their distribution, and stress the need to strengthen cooperation by collecting and sharing data on the production, distribution and effects of those substances;

29. *Encourage* Member States to monitor trends emerging in some regions in the import, export and distribution of some synthetic opioid analgesics not under international control, in particular tramadol, which is used in many countries for the effective treatment of moderate to severe pain, to monitor patterns in the non-medical use and misuse of those substances within their national borders and to continue, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organization and the International Narcotics Control Board and other relevant organizations, sharing and exchanging information on those emerging trends and patterns through bilateral and multilateral channels, while considering appropriate measures in accordance with national legislation aimed at preventing and reducing the non-medical use and misuse, the supply from illicit sources and the diversion of those substances, while ensuring their availability for medical and scientific purposes;

30. *Highlight* the need for Member States to work more closely with the International Narcotics Control Board by exchanging information on

trafficking in precursor chemicals and other non-scheduled substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, including on new methods for their diversion, as mandated in article 12, paragraph 12, of the 1988 Convention, and to increase monitoring of trade in non-scheduled substances listed in the Board's limited international special surveillance list of non-scheduled substances, and encourage Governments to adopt the concept of industry as a critical partner in preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals and facilitating the identification of suspicious transactions of non-scheduled substances in order to prevent their use in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

31. *Note* that the diversion of precursor chemicals, including pharmaceutical preparations containing those chemicals, continues to be a major challenge in curbing the illicit production and manufacture of drugs, and emphasize the need to further strengthen control of precursor chemicals by Member States, as appropriate, including through the extensive use of tools prepared by the International Narcotics Control Board, such as Pre-Export Notification Online and the online Precursors Incident Communication System, the development of voluntary codes of conduct in cooperation with concerned industries and other relevant companies, the strengthening of public-private partnerships and enhanced international cooperation;

32. *Express concern* that illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant and illicit drug production, manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain a major challenge in countering the world drug problem, and recognize the need for strengthening sustainable crop control strategies that include, inter alia, alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures for the purpose of reducing significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of such crops, and the need for intensifying joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges;

33. *Recognize* the significant role played by countries with accumulated experience in alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, in promoting best practices and lessons learned from such programmes, and invite them to continue sharing those best practices with States affected by the illicit cultivation of crops, with a view to using them, where appropriate, in accordance with the national specificities of each State;

34. *Stress* the need to further strengthen international cooperation and the need for enhanced development-oriented approaches that implement measures for rural development, strengthen local governance and institutions, improve access to legal markets and infrastructure, promote the participation of local communities and consider the participation of multilateral and bilateral development agencies in the design and implementation of policies and programmes for alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

35. *Recognize* that transit States continue to face multifaceted challenges, and reaffirm the continuing need for cooperation and support, including the provision of technical assistance, to, inter alia, enhance their capacities to counter the world drug problem, in conformity with the 1988 Convention and on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility;

36. *Also recognize* the need to improve international cooperation in relation to the monitoring and interdiction of criminal organizations involved in drug trafficking, including through the timely exchange of information consistent with national law and procedures; by intensifying, as appropriate, law enforcement cooperation such as border control, including where possible joint border control measures; by strengthening maritime control cooperation; and, upon request by Member States, through the provision of related drug control equipment and the development of new practical measures to effectively monitor and interdict drug trafficking and enable the effective disruption of those organizations;

37. *Acknowledge* that in many Member States integrated supply reduction strategies have been adopted, often complemented by comprehensive strategies against organized crime that include components against drug trafficking, and acknowledge the active efforts of Member States, at both the national and international levels, to combat illicit cultivation of crops and illicit drug production, manufacture, distribution and trafficking, as well as other drug-related crimes;

C. Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation

Achievements

38. *Acknowledge* the efforts made by States parties in the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and, as appropriate, the Protocols thereto and of the Convention against Corruption, which constitute valuable tools for confronting some aspects of the world drug problem, note with appreciation the increasing level of adherence to those conventions, and call on Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to those conventions;

39. *Also acknowledge* the importance of international, regional and subregional cooperation as an effective measure against money-laundering and the importance of structuring domestic regulatory and supervisory systems and mechanisms using international initiatives in that area as guidelines, where appropriate;

40. *Recognize* that regional and international frameworks have effectively promoted the implementation of international standards contributing to the fight against money-laundering and other financial crimes and have built trust among officials, leading to a better understanding of their respective legal and procedural requirements;

Challenges and priorities

41. *Express concern* over the many challenges encountered in addressing money-laundering, acknowledge that the value of confiscated proceeds of crime related to money-laundering activities at the global level remains low, and therefore continue to underscore the need for increased availability of information on proceeds of crime resulting from transnational organized crime, in order to enhance the capacity of Member States to prevent and combat money-laundering arising from drug trafficking;

42. *Reaffirm* the need for Member States to review and, if necessary, strengthen coordinated measures, enhance capacity-building to combat money-laundering arising from drug trafficking and improve judicial cooperation, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels, to dismantle organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking, in order to provide for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of such crimes;

43. *Underscore* the need to strengthen national, regional and international networks for the exchange of operational information in compliance with national legislation and procedures among the relevant authorities, in order to facilitate the detection, seizure and confiscation of proceeds of drug trafficking and related crimes and criminal asset recovery;

44. *Urge* Member States, in their efforts to combat the laundering of money derived from illicit drug trafficking and other serious crimes, to continue to foster international cooperation by implementing the provisions against money-laundering contained in all relevant international instruments, such as the 1988 Convention, the Organized Crime Convention, the Convention against Corruption and, in accordance with national legislation, the Forty Recommendations on Money-Laundering of the Financial Action Task Force, within its mandate, and by, among other things, establishing new or strengthening existing domestic legislative frameworks to criminalize the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking, trafficking in and diversion of precursors and other serious crimes of a transnational nature in order to provide for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of money-laundering by, inter alia, ensuring that legal provisions in compliance with due process of law, such as banking secrecy laws, do not needlessly hinder the effectiveness of national and international systems for countering money-laundering and do not constitute grounds for the refusal of mutual legal assistance and by making money-laundering an extraditable offence, in accordance with national legislation, including by recognizing the widest range of predicate offences;

45. *Promote*, where appropriate, in the framework of international cooperation, the use of law enforcement techniques, including special investigative techniques such as controlled delivery and lawful electronic surveillance, undercover operations or cooperating defendants, consistent with national legislation and international law, including applicable human rights obligations, in order to ensure that drug traffickers are brought to justice and that major criminal organizations are disrupted and dismantled.

Annex II

Outcome of the round-table discussions of the high-level segment

Round-table discussions of the high-level segment

1. Round-table discussions were held on 13 and 14 March 2014 on the following themes:

(a) Demand reduction: reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach;

(b) Supply reduction: reducing the illicit supply of drugs, control of precursors and of amphetamine-type stimulants, and international cooperation on eradicating the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and on alternative development;

(c) International cooperation: countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation.

2. On 13 March, the outcome of the round table on demand reduction was presented by the Chair of that round table, Francisco de Asís Babín Vich (Spain). The Chair's summary of the outcome, which was not subject to negotiation, is reproduced below.

Outcome of the round table on demand reduction: reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach

The importance of demand reduction based on scientific evidence in the context of a health-centred approach to the drug problem was universally emphasized, and it was underlined that in the drug control conventions health was considered critical to achieving healthier and safer societies. Drug control policies based exclusively on counteracting production and trafficking were not sustainable.

Although not all countries would be implementing all of them, a range of interventions and policies were part of a comprehensive and balanced approach. Such interventions and policies concerned drug prevention, globally and with special emphasis on particularly vulnerable groups such as children, youth and women; drug treatment, both pharmacological and psychosocial; the treatment of co-morbidities; and social protection.

Some speakers referred to the scientific evidence pointing to the fact that the incidence of HIV was reduced in communities that implemented harm reduction services and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to provide the technical assistance necessary to implement and scale up those services.

Many participants reported good results in their countries with regard to reducing the prevalence of the consumption of specific substances and/or the consequences of drug use, particularly HIV. The increase in the use of new psychoactive substances was a challenge in many countries, although there had been some early successes in developing a response.

Drug use and drug dependence were seen as health issues, and, in many countries, providing people who used drugs and/or suffered from drug dependence with treatment and support rather than imposing criminal sanctions or punishment had been found to be helpful. At the same time, concern was expressed with regard to countries moving towards legalizing the use of cannabis, as that would have an impact on the incidence and prevalence of cannabis use, particularly among young people.

The importance of focusing on early interventions was underlined. Prevention should start early, and many countries were strengthening their capacity with regard to screening and early intervention.

The capacity of practitioners addressing the issue of drugs was also being strengthened, but concern was expressed at the fact that such capacity-building was still not adequate. Interventions needed to be carried out by qualified and well-trained professionals, and must be based on scientific evidence.

Speakers expressed the need to support capacity-building in respect of the full spectrum of interventions and policies, as well as data collection. The standards developed by UNODC on those issues were seen as crucial reference points that needed to be adapted, adopted and disseminated widely.

The need for the systematic and sustainable involvement of all concerned was emphasized repeatedly: governments, municipalities and civil society organizations could contribute to the development and implementation of policies and the delivery of interventions.

3. On 13 March, the outcome of the round table on supply reduction was presented by the Chair of that round table, Kittipong Kittayarak (Thailand). The Chair's summary of the outcome, which was not subject to negotiation, is reproduced below.

Outcome of the round table on supply reduction: reducing the illicit supply of drugs, control of precursors and of amphetamine-type stimulants, and international cooperation on eradicating the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and on alternative development

Participants expressed concern about the increasing levels of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and noted that illicit cultivation had worsened since 2009.

Speakers noted the need for better information on the number of drug users in various regions in order to tackle the illicit drug problem effectively, highlighted the importance of international cooperation to tackle cross-border trafficking, citing as an example the increasing rates of maritime trafficking using shipping containers, and noted the need for increased sharing of information and intelligence between authorities on all matters relating to the investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking.

Participants spoke of the need to maintain effective control over the precursor chemicals in Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, because organized criminal groups were diverting "pre-precursors" and non-scheduled substances not under

international control to produce new psychoactive substances and other amphetamine-type substances.

Speakers referred to the increasing challenge posed by the growth in methamphetamine abuse, and expressed their concern over the encroachment being made by new psychoactive substances in illicit drug markets.

Participants reiterated the importance of precursor control and suggested that stricter controls should be introduced to intercept the smuggling of precursors into illicit drug-production areas.

Participants highlighted the successful reduction in the production of opium in the South-East Asian region and in the production and trafficking of cocaine from the Andean region, which had been achieved through both alternative development and law enforcement efforts to dismantle organized criminal groups. Participants also noted that the sharing of best practices and experiences was needed.

Participants noted that alternative development must be based on the principle of shared responsibility, taking a balanced and comprehensive approach, supported by strong international cooperation, the sharing of best practices and lessons learned and the involvement of stakeholders.

Speakers highlighted the importance of addressing the driving factors that led marginalized communities to engage in illicit crop cultivation and noted that only a fraction of communities currently benefited from alternative development interventions.

A number of speakers stressed the role of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and welcomed efforts being made to put those principles into practice.

Participants recognized the importance of capacity-building and the need for alternative, including preventive alternative, development strategies to be designed in conjunction with stakeholders, including civil society, stressing the need to work with the private sector in order to facilitate access to markets.

Speakers reiterated that alternative development was a long-term, high-investment action that, if properly implemented, resulted in improved sustainable livelihoods and a decrease in illicit crop cultivation.

Speakers highlighted that a successful international supply reduction strategy involved alternative development, crop eradication, law enforcement and interdiction.

4. On 14 March, the outcome of the round table on international cooperation was presented by Dubravka Simonovic (Croatia). The Chair's summary of the outcome, which was not subject to negotiation, is reproduced below.

Outcome of the round table on international cooperation: countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

Speakers expressed concern about the scale of illicit financial flows originating from drug trafficking and noted that the proceeds of crime could flow through the banking system or formal and informal money or value transfer systems, or could be transported by cross-border cash couriers.

Participants highlighted that the disruption of financial flows originating from illicit activities was a major component in combating transnational organized crime.

Speakers noted the importance of a global anti-money-laundering system based on the United Nations drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force, in combating illicit financial flows. The key elements of such a system included a national legal framework to combat money-laundering, the establishment and strengthening of national authorities such as financial intelligence units, dedicated law enforcement and anti-corruption agencies, the application of special investigative techniques, a trained judiciary and the establishment of multilateral cooperation mechanisms.

Many speakers emphasized the close connections between drug trafficking, corruption and money-laundering. In addition to the potential for corruption to undermine efforts to combat money-laundering, other challenges included insufficient resources, lack of expertise on combating money-laundering and confiscating assets, the increasing misuse of offshore financial centres and obstacles to international legal cooperation.

Participants highlighted the importance of international judicial cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and pointed out the particular value of such cooperation at the regional level, where countries shared common concerns and challenges.

Speakers reported progress in both concluding bilateral treaties on international judicial cooperation and amending domestic legal frameworks in the light of the relevant United Nations conventions.

The work carried out by UNODC to establish regional networks that facilitated cooperation in practice and offered platforms for capacity-building, such as the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime, was acknowledged by participants.

Speakers drew attention to the need for a flexible and timely approach in the provision of international judicial cooperation, based on the principle of common responsibility among States. Participants highlighted, in particular, the need for effective cooperation related to non-coercive measures and the identification and confiscation of criminal assets.

Speakers referred to the challenges that still remained with regard to international judicial cooperation, notably in respect of the establishment of competent national authorities and their role as points of contact, the development of guidelines for successful requests, the establishment of mechanisms for the enforcement of requests for restraint and confiscation of criminal assets, the application of the dual-criminality requirement and the non-extradition of nationals.